in order that the Government might bestow careful thought and save them from the evils arising from the present Bill. The provisions in Part V relating to self-acquisitions were not approved by them. They were not for willing away the whole of their acquisitions to their children, but only one-half. Again, individual partition recognised in Chapter VII was not to their liking. He then discussed the amendment to section 31 recently passed by the Council and the evils arising therefrom to the *Misradayees*. What the authors of the Bill wanted—whether individual or *thavazhee* partition—was not clear. *Thavazhee* partition had been the guiding principle among the *Misradayees* and it was that system of inheritance that they wished to have. The Member also objected to the clause laying down that in cases of intestate succession the whole of the self-acquision of the person dying intestate should go to his wife and children. The partition sections in Chapter VII were contradictory to one another. It could not be said that the discussion of the Bill in the Legislative Council was entirely barren of benefit to them. Section 33 conferred on them some benefit, but it was rendered useless by the addendum that the majority in a family could nullify its effect. In effect the *Misradayees* had been reduced to a position in which they had no credit in the land. The Member then referred to the noble and self-sacrificing labours of Mr. P. Parameswaran in the Council to exempt all *Misradayees* from the operation of the Bill. But they fell flat on the Council. He was confident that not even 5 per cent. of the *Misradayees* would accept the Bill. The general sense of the community was that they wanted relief even from the latest amendment of that Section introduced by the Law Member. The Bill placed the *Misradayees* under a religious disability in respect of death, pollution, *sraddha*, etc., and on that account also the *Misradayees* should be totally exempted from the Bill. It was not too late even now to comply with their request. Although the Bill was awaiting final reading, he believed that the Government had power to interfere even at that stage and save an important section of the community from the danger which would befall them if the Bill in its present form was to become law. In conclusion, the Member prayed that section 33 might be so amended as to exempt all *Misradayees* from the provisions of the Ezhava Bill.

President's reply.—I understand your difficulties. The Bill has been read a second time in the Legislative Council. The final reading is not over, and as such no definite reply can be given now. If, after the Bill is passed into law, the members of your section of the community require any exemption from its operation, they may apply to the authorities within six months from the date of the enactment as laid down therein.

24. Need for a law governing the right of succession, etc., among Malayala Brahmins.

Mr. Trivikraman Vasudevan (Member, Jenmi, Trivandrum Division) represented that there was no recognised law of succession among Malayala Brahmins and that what they had at present was neither Makkathayam nor Marumakkathayam. A resolution on the subject of the enactment of a law of succession for them was passed at the annual session of the Yogakshema Sabha and sent to the Governments in Travancore, Cochin and British Malabar some time ago. It was also the sense of the community that marriages among them should be endogamous. But the practical difficulty in bringing about that reform was the inability of the men to support their family due to the system of inheritance which now prevails. Junior members of Malayala Brahmin families should have at least the right to claim partition. As in such an important matter it was highly necessary that the general consensus of opinion in the community should be correctly gauged, the Member urged the appointment of a committee of enquiry for that purpose and requested that a Bill might be drafted by that committee.

President's reply.—This being a piece of social legislation, a private Bill may be introduced in the Council. The question of the appointment of a committee to enquire into the manners and customs obtaining among Malayala Brahmins as regards marriage, inheritance, etc., will be considered by the Government.

25. Enactment of a law relating to "wakfs" among Mahomedans.

Mr. Sayyid Mahomed Kannu (Member, Nominated) said that his representation related solely to the administration of *wakf* property. He said that, according to

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Mahomedan law, *wakf* property must be administered by a *khazi* recognised by the Government, or that the Government themselves should be the *khazi* in order that the existing disputes might be put an end to. It was pointed out that, in the interest of the Mahomedan inhabitants of the State, Government should undertake the necessary legislation whereby the extent of *wakf* property in each district might be ascertained by a committee of members elected by the people of the district. Those committees might examine and audit the accounts for each year and either the Devaswom Commissioner or the Dewan Peishkar or the District Judge might be entrusted with power to supervise the work of the committees within his jurisdiction. The Member added that, if the Government did not introduce the above measures, confusion and chaos would be the result.

The Member then observed that, in all important places like Kottar, Tengapattanam, Tittavilai, Alur and Thuckalai in South Travancore, disputes had arisen resulting in the closing of mosques. The Member concluded with a prayer that remedial measures might be adopted early in order to prevent such disputes.

President's reply.—Your representation is noted.

26. Suggestions for the better working of certain Regulations and Rules.

Mr. R. Dharmaraja Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil) represented that, with a view to remove the difficulties experienced by the people in the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation and the rules thereunder, it was highly desirable that the rules should be made as definite as possible. The Member suggested the following modifications :—

(1) In levying assessments on Government lands the rates adopted for neighbouring lands at the last settlement should be applied, since the present rates were high.

(2) The prohibitory assessment imposed should not be a multiple of the ordinary assessment since in each case a heavy fine was also being imposed.

(3) In regard to the imposing of fines in cases where the occupation was objectionable, the practice varied with the nature of the officials, the time of making the order and the persons with whom the officials had to deal. The Member's suggestion to minimise the evil was that the fines imposed might bear a proportion to the assessment fixed and that the maximum amount of the fine should not exceed five times that amount.

(4) The assessment fixed on town lands was excessive and it should be lowered to the same level as that fixed on the neighbouring lands at the last settlement.

(5) In cases where the objection was found to be temporarily unobjectionable, the lands concerned should be leased on Kuthakapattam either for a definite period or without any time-limit. In such cases the rent for a year was fixed with reference to the value of the adjoining property and such rent ordinarily happened to be 4 or 5 times the prohibitory assessment that might be fixed. That worked great hardship. It should therefore be fixed with reference to the annual rent that might be received from the property.

(6) In cases where land had been occupied with the permission of the municipality, the Revenue Department took action under the Land Conservancy Regulation, and in cases where it had been occupied with the permission of the revenue authorities either on payment of *kuthakapattam* or prohibitory assessment, the municipality proceeded against the occupants. It was highly undesirable that a different department should take action against a person who had permission from one department.

Coming to the rules for the election of members to the Municipalities, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council, the Member said that the main principle guiding the Electoral Rules was the safeguarding of the interests of minorities. Under the present rules each voter was allowed to give his votes to as many candidates as there were seats to be contested, which only resulted in the return of candidates representing majorities. Proportional representation by a single transferable vote was a method of election by which the interests of

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